# WEAK KAM THEORY ON METRIC SPACES

Roma, 23 May, 2023

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To Antonio, the Master of metric methods

Background on Weak KAM Theory on Lagrangian systems

(M,g) is a compact Riemannian manifold.

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This second condition is equivalent to:

(ii') For every  $K \ge 0$ , we can find a finite constant C(K) such that

 $L(x, v) \ge K \|v\|_x + C(K)$ , for every  $(x, v) \in TM$ .

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Proposition

1) There exists a unique constant  $c[0] \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\phi_c \equiv -\infty$ , for c < c[0] and  $\phi_c$  is everywhere finite, for  $c \ge c[0]$ .

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2) We have 
$$h^{c} = \begin{cases} \equiv -\infty, \text{ for } c < c[0], \\ \equiv +\infty, \text{ for } c > c[0], \\ \text{finite everywhere, for } c = c[0]. \end{cases}$$

3) Moreover, for  $c \ge c[0]$ , the Mañé potential  $\phi_c$  is a semi-metric on M, such that  $\phi_c(x, y) \le (A + c)d(x, y)$ ,

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where  $u: M \to \mathbb{R}$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ . A (viscosity) subsolution of (HJc) is a *Lipschitz* function  $u: M \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $H(x, d_x u) \leq c$  for almost every  $x \in M$ . Theorem There exists a subsolution  $u : M \to \mathbb{R}$  of  $H(x, d_x u) = c$  if and only if  $c \ge c[0]$ , where c[0] is Mañé's critical value.

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The functions  $T_t^c u, t > 0$  are all continuous (even if u is not).

# Theorem The family $T_t^c$ , t > 0 has a common fixed point if and only if c = c[0].

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The (viscosity) solutions of  $H(x, d_x u) = c$  are precisely the common fixed points of the  $T_t^c, t > 0$ . Moreover, for every  $x \in X$ , the function  $h^{c[0]}(x, \cdot)$  is a (viscosity) solution of  $H(x, d_x u) = c[0]$ . Generalization: Weak KAM Theory on Metric Spaces

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Another interesting example is the following:

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We will denote by  $\mathscr{S}_{sub}(\phi)$ , the set of  $\phi$ -subsolutions.

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4) If u<sub>i</sub>, i ∈ I is a family of functions in S<sub>sub</sub>(φ), then either inf<sub>i∈I</sub> u<sub>i</sub> ≡ -∞ (resp. sup<sub>i∈I</sub> u<sub>i</sub> ≡ +∞) or inf<sub>i∈I</sub> u<sub>i</sub> (resp. sup<sub>i∈I</sub> u<sub>i</sub>) is finite everywhere and inf<sub>i∈I</sub> u<sub>i</sub> (resp. sup<sub>i∈I</sub> u<sub>i</sub>) is in S<sub>sub</sub>(φ).
5) For every x<sub>0</sub> ∈ X, the functions φ(x<sub>0</sub>, ·) : X → ℝ, x ↦ φ(x<sub>0</sub>, x) and -φ(·, x<sub>0</sub>) : X → ℝ, x ↦ -φ(x, x<sub>0</sub>) are both φ-subsolutions.

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In the sequel of this work we will assume that X has at least two points.

This implies that for every  $x, y \in X$  and every  $\eta \ge 0$ , we can find a chain  $x_0 = x, \ldots, x_n = y$  with  $\ell_d(x_0, \ldots, x_n) \ge \eta$ .

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(v) The Peierls barrier  $\phi^{\infty}$  is continuous, when it is finite (everywhere).

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**Theorem** If the Peierls barrier  $\phi^{\infty}$  is finite everywhere,

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# $\phi\text{-solutions}$

### Definition A $\phi$ -subsolution $u: X \to \mathbb{R}$ is a $\phi$ -solution at $x \in X$

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# Lemma If $x \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ ,

Lemma If  $x \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ , then every  $\phi$ -subsolution  $u : X \to \mathbb{R}$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at x.

Lemma If  $x \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ , then every  $\phi$ -subsolution  $u : X \to \mathbb{R}$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at x. Therefore, to check that the  $\phi$ -subsolution  $u : X \to \mathbb{R}$  is a  $\phi$ -solution,

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#### It is useful now to recall that

 $\phi(x,y) = \phi^{\eta}(x,y) = \phi^{d(x,y)}(x,y)$ , for all  $x, y \in X$  and  $0 \le \eta \le d(x,y)$ .

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#### It is useful now to recall that

$$\begin{split} \phi(x,y) &= \phi^{\eta}(x,y) = \phi^{d(x,y)}(x,y), \text{ for all } x,y \in X \text{ and } 0 \leq \eta \leq d(x,y).\\ \text{In fact } \phi(x,y) \leq \phi^{\eta}(x,y) \leq \phi^{d(x,y)}(x,y), \text{ because } \phi^{\eta} \text{ is }\\ \text{non-decreasing in } \eta. \text{ It remains to show that} \\ \phi^{d(x,y)}(x,y) \leq \phi(x,y). \text{ This results from the fact that the chain} \\ (x,y) \text{ satisfies } \ell_d(x,y) = d(x,y), \text{ which yields} \\ \phi^{d(x,y)}(x,y) \leq c_{\phi}(x,y) = \phi(x,y). \end{split}$$

**Proposition** 1) For every  $x_0 \in X$ , the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at every  $x \neq x_0$ . 2) Therefore, if  $x_0 \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ , the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution (everywhere on X). Proposition 1) For every  $x_0 \in X$ , the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at every  $x \neq x_0$ . 2) Therefore, if  $x_0 \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ , the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution (everywhere on X). 3) If for a given  $x_0 \in X$ , the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution en X, then  $x_0 \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ .

2) Therefore, if  $x_0 \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ , the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution (everywhere on X).

3) If for a given  $x_0 \in X$ , the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution en X, then  $x_0 \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ .

For 1), fix such an  $x \neq x_0$ . Since  $\phi(x_0, x_0) = 0$ , we have  $\phi(x_0, x) - \phi(x_0, x_0) = \phi(x_0, x)$ .

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Therefore, the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at x, because  $d(x_0, x) > 0$  for  $x \neq x_0$ .

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Therefore, the function  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at x, because  $d(x_0, x) > 0$  for  $x \neq x_0$ .

2) follows from 1) and the fact that a  $\phi$ -subsolution is a  $\phi$ -solution at every point in  $\mathscr{A}(\phi)$ .

To prove 3), suppose that  $\phi(x_0, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at  $x_0$ ,

$$\phi(x_0,x_0)-\phi(x_0,y)=\phi^{\eta}(y,x_0),$$

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or equivalently

$$\phi(x_0, y) + \phi^{\eta}(y, x_0) = 0.$$

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or equivalently

$$\phi(x_0, y) + \phi^{\eta}(y, x_0) = 0.$$

Thus

$$0 = \phi(x_0, y) + \phi^{\eta}(y, x_0) \ge \phi^{\eta+0}(x_0, x_0) \ge \phi^{\eta+0}(x_0, x_0) \ge \phi(x_0, x_0) = 0.$$

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Therefore  $\phi^{\eta}(x_0, x_0) = 0$ .

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}_0,\mathbf{x}_0)-\phi(\mathbf{x}_0,\mathbf{y})=\phi^{\eta}(\mathbf{y},\mathbf{x}_0),$$

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$$0 = \phi(x_0, y) + \phi^{\eta}(y, x_0) \ge \phi^{\eta+0}(x_0, x_0) \ge \phi^{\eta+0}(x_0, x_0) \ge \phi(x_0, x_0) = 0.$$

Therefore  $\phi^{\eta}(x_0, x_0) = 0$ . Since  $\eta > 0$ , we indeed obtain  $x_0 \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ .

## Proposition If the Peierls barrier $\phi^{\infty}$ is finite,

If the Peierls barrier  $\phi^{\infty}$  is finite, then, for every  $x \in X$ , the function  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution (everywhere on X).

If the Peierls barrier  $\phi^{\infty}$  is finite, then, for every  $x \in X$ , the function  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution (everywhere on X). We already saw that  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -subsolution.

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We already saw that  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -subsolution. Suppose that  $y \in X$  is fixed. We must show that  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at y.

If the Peierls barrier  $\phi^{\infty}$  is finite, then, for every  $x \in X$ , the function  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution (everywhere on X).

We already saw that  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -subsolution. Suppose that  $y \in X$  is fixed. We must show that  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution at y. By a property of  $\phi^{\infty}$  given above,

If the Peierls barrier  $\phi^{\infty}$  is finite, then, for every  $x \in X$ , the function  $\phi^{\infty}(x, \cdot)$  is a  $\phi$ -solution (everywhere on X).

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Of course, we would like to show that  $\phi$ -solutions are stable by uniform convergence (or even simple convergence, since the familly  $\phi$ -solutions is contained in the family of  $\phi$ -solutions, which isequicontinuous).

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Moreover, we can take  $y \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ . We now give a couple of corollaries.

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Moreover, we can take  $y \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ . We now give a couple of corollaries.

# Corollary

The  $\phi$ -solutions are stable by uniform convergence.

Suppose that the  $u_n : M \to \mathbb{R}$  are  $\phi$ -solutions that converge uniformly on X to  $u : X \to \mathbb{R}$ .

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Suppose that the  $u_n : M \to \mathbb{R}$  are  $\phi$ -solutions that converge uniformly on X to  $u : X \to \mathbb{R}$ . Fix  $x \in X$ . Let us show that u is a  $\phi$ -solution at x.

$$u_n(x) - u_n(y_n) = \phi^{\infty}(y_n, x).$$

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$$u(x)-u(y)=\phi^{\infty}(y,x).$$

Therefore u is a  $\phi$ -solution at x.

The next Corollary is well-known for Tonelli Lagrangians.

$$u(x) = \inf_{y \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)} u(y) + \phi(y, x).$$

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Since u is a  $\phi$ -subsolution, we have  $u(x) \le u(y) + \phi(y, x)$ .

$$u(x) = \inf_{y \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)} u(y) + \phi(y, x).$$

Since *u* is a  $\phi$ -subsolution, we have  $u(x) \le u(y) + \phi(y, x)$ . Hence taking the inf on  $y \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$ , we obtain

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To show the equality  $u(x) = \inf_{y \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)} u(y) + \phi(y, x)$ , we apply the Theorem above to find  $y_0 \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)$  such that

$$egin{aligned} u(x) &= u(y_0) + \phi^\infty(y_0, x) \ &\geq u(y_0) + \phi(y_0, x) \ &\geq \inf_{y \in \mathscr{A}(\phi)} u(y) + \phi(y, x) \ &\geq u(x). \quad \Box \end{aligned}$$